

SHERLOCK HOLMES COMICS SERIES

Genre(s):

- Comics and graphic novels
- Detective fiction
- Adventure
- Historical (19th century)

Keywords:

- Sherlock Holmes
- Crime
- Victorian Era

Audience: suitable for all audiences; fans of comics

Rights sold abroad: Spain

Concept

V. 1: 5 years before the Great War, Sherlock Holmes is sent to Continental Europe to thwart the plot of England's future enemy: Wilhelm II.

V. 2: A surprising, yet plausible version of the final events in Sherlock Holmes' "first life" before his disappearance in the Reichenbach Falls.

V. 3: After his disappearance in Switzerland and a period of amnesia, Sherlock Holmes regains his mental faculties in a chilling kidnapping story.

All three albums are the work of two big names in the 9th Art: Roger Seiter's efficient plotlines pair perfectly with Giuseppe Manunta's magnificently cinematographic artwork.

Universe and references

- 22,000 albums sold in France
- The novel that inspired volume 1 sold 20,000 copies
- In the tradition of the Sherlock Holmes pastiche
- The revival of Sherlock Holmes related to Guy Ritchie's films

Pitch

V. 1 Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Haut-Koenigsbourg: 1909. Europe is afraid a war will break out and intelligence agencies are wondering why Germany's Kaiser has been so insistent on rebuilding the ruins of the Haut-Koenigsbourg castle. In this diplomatic and military game of chess, who is a friend and who is foe? Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson are back on the job.

V. 2 Sherlock Holmes: Reunion in Strasbourg: Brussels, April, 28 1891. A telegram informs Sherlock Holmes that Moriarty has set all of Europe's criminals on his heels. In order to throw them off their trail, the detective pulls Doctor Watson into the first outbound train. Through plot twists and close calls, we follow Holmes to the Reichenbach Falls for the final showdown with his mortal enemy... and a pleasant surprise.

V. 3 Sherlock Holmes and the Jodhpur Enigma: Port-Saïd, April 1892. The *Jodhpur* liner is on its way to Bombay with Irene Adler and Sherlock Holmes, who has gradually retrieved his memory after the events in *Reunion in Strasbourg*. Irene's husband disappeared in India several long months ago and the famous detective has promised to help her find him. Wherever Sherlock Holmes goes, crime and adventure always follow close behind...

Authors

Roger Seiter, the writer, has been well-known in the comics publishing world since 1994. The Victorian Era and detective fiction are his specialties.

He was selected at the Angoulême festival in 2012. He wrote the script for the famous **Lefranc** series which was published by **Casterman**. His album *The Bird-Man* was one of the best-selling comics in 2016.

Selective bibliography

- *FOG* (1999-2011), Casterman
- *Special Branch* (2011-2012), Glénat
- *Cuba libre* (Lefranc series, 2014), Casterman
- *L'homme-oiseau* [The Bird-Man] (Lefranc series, 2016), Casterman

Giuseppe Manunta has been drawing comics since the 1990s. Among others, he has worked with **Universo** et **Trentini** and gradually established himself as an author in erotica. He created the *Giunchiglia* series, which would later be published in France by **Clair de Lune**.

Some of his albums have been translated and published in France by **Vents d'Ouest**, and in the Netherlands by **Penthouse Comics** and **Heavy Metal**. From 2007 to 2008, he worked for the **Disney studio** on layouts for the *High School Musical* series. Since 2013, he has diversified his profile with series such as *Zombie Walk* (2 volumes) and *Sherlock Holmes* (3 volumes).

Selective bibliographie

- *Scandales* (2012), Tabou
- *Artemis ½* (2011), Clair de Lune

Additional information about the series

The project's history

This comics series started out in 2009 with the publication of J. Fortier's novel *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Haut-Koenigsbourg*. Given the book's success (20,000 copies sold to date) and the enthusiasm of France's Sherlock Holmes Society, Verger Editeur decided to adapt the novel into a comic, which can be read as a one-shot.

In turn, the comic was extremely well-received by readers and the publisher and artists decided to produce another album which staged Sherlock Holmes and Watson in a new adventure in Europe.

Volume 2 of the series left Sherlock Holmes alive, but amnesiac. Volume 3 tells of his "return to life" and to his criminal investigations.

The series' recipe for success

A healthy dose of research: While preparing these albums, the artists and the publisher visited the Haut-Koenigsbourg castle and the Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland. They also worked closely with an exemplary group of scholars.

A cup of love for Conan Doyle's hero: Created with playful respect for the "canon", this series has been hailed by Sherlock Holmes associations and societies.

A pinch of... pastiche: One of the first Sherlock Holmes pastiche-writers was Maurice Leblanc, the famous creator of Arsène Lupin. Since then, innumerable authors have featured the British detective in their works. Thanks to amusing situations, witty banter, and hidden graphic elements, humor is omnipresent in our series. This perfect balance between being serious and being playful has ensured the series' success throughout all three albums.

AT A GLANCE

- 3 albums, which could be published separately or all together
- Format:
 - V. 1: 54 pages in color
 - V. 2: 54 pages in color
 - V. 3: 54 pages in color
 - **Total: 162 pages in color**
- Available material in English: this presentation (including an overview of the work's characteristics) and a translated and lettered 15-page excerpt

Worldwide rights (except for Spain) available

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss all offers regarding our rights.

Information regarding the acquisition of our rights: <http://verger-editeur.fr/-Foreign-rights->

Complete catalog: <http://www.verger-editeur.fr/-Catalogue->

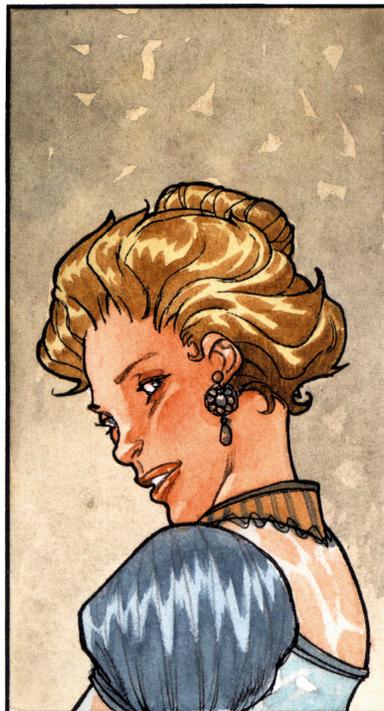
SEITER

MANUNTA

SHERLOCK HOLMES

AND THE MYSTERY OF
HAUT-KOENIGSBOURG

Based on the novel by
Jacques Fortier



LE VERGER ÉDITEUR

Sherlock Holmes series

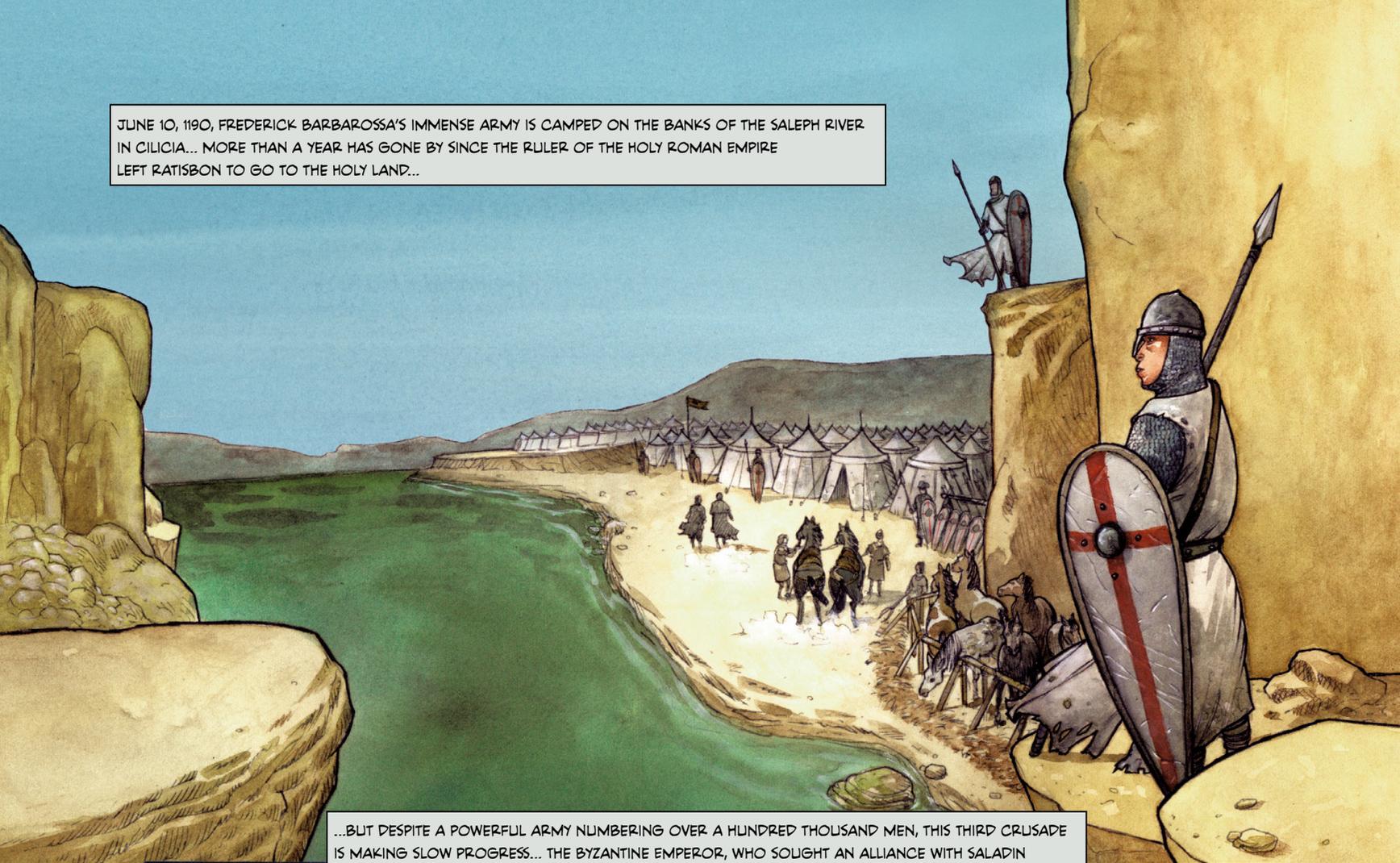
by Seiter and Manunta :

1 - *Sherlock Holmes and the mystery of Haut-Koenigsbourg*

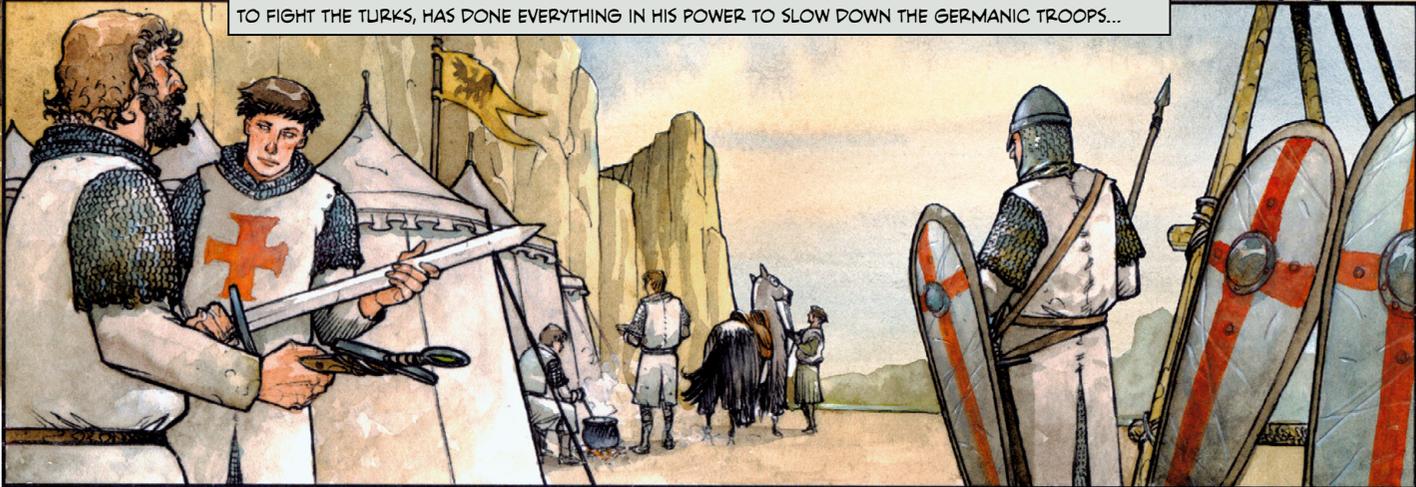
2 - *Sherlock Holmes: Reunion in Strasbourg*

3 - *Sherlock Holmes and the Jodhpur enigma*

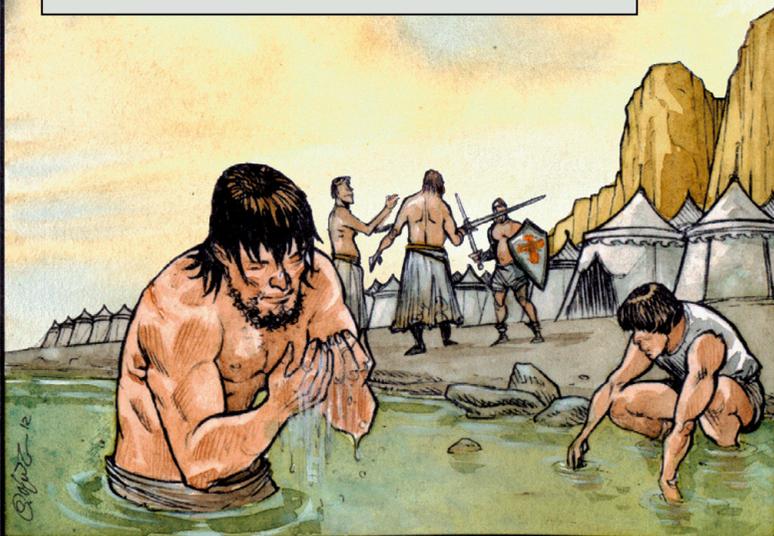
JUNE 10, 1190, FREDERICK BARBAROSSA'S IMMENSE ARMY IS CAMPED ON THE BANKS OF THE SALEPH RIVER IN CILICIA... MORE THAN A YEAR HAS GONE BY SINCE THE RULER OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE LEFT RATISBON TO GO TO THE HOLY LAND...



...BUT DESPITE A POWERFUL ARMY NUMBERING OVER A HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN, THIS THIRD CRUSADE IS MAKING SLOW PROGRESS... THE BYZANTINE EMPEROR, WHO SOUGHT AN ALLIANCE WITH SALADIN TO FIGHT THE TURKS, HAS DONE EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO SLOW DOWN THE GERMANIC TROOPS...



TO FORCE THE BYZANTINES TO YIELD AND SIGN A TREATY, FREDERICK HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SACK HADRIANOPOLIS... IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS EMPIRE, ISAAC II ANGELOS EVENTUALLY SHOWERED THE CRUSADERS WITH GIFTS...



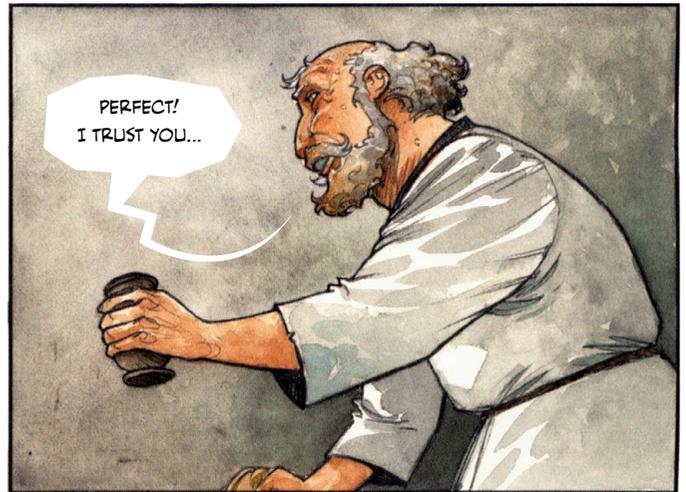


REST ASSURED, YOUR MAJESTY, THE OBJECT YOU ENTRUSTED TO US ARRIVED SAFE AND SOUND.

IT'S NOW SAFELY HIDDEN IN YOUR CASTLE IN STAUFEN AND ONLY A HANDFUL OF YOUR LOYAL SERVANTS KNOW OF ITS EXISTENCE.



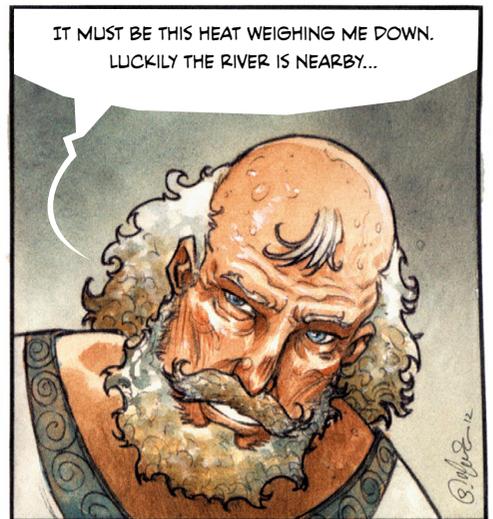
NEVER FEAR, YOUR MAJESTY... IT WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU RETURN FROM THIS HOLY EXPEDITION.



PERFECT! I TRUST YOU...



I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I NEEDED TO HEAR IT FROM YOUR LIPS.



IT MUST BE THIS HEAT WEIGHING ME DOWN. LUCKILY THE RIVER IS NEARBY...



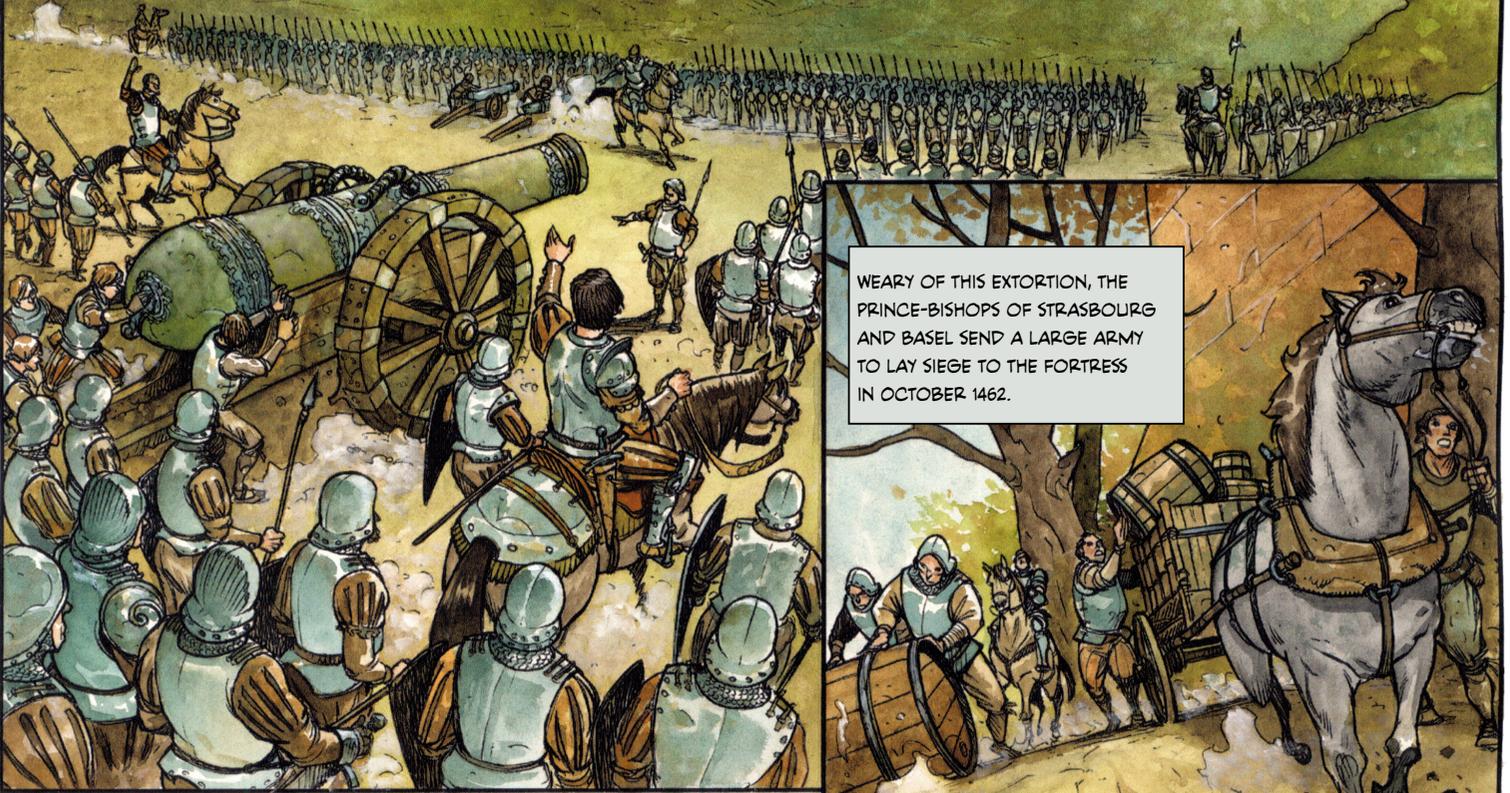
YOUR EMPEROR IS GOING TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS... HE'S GOING FOR A SWIM...



FREDERICK BARBAROSSA WILL NEVER SEE HIS ALSATIAN CASTLE AGAIN... THE OLD EMPEROR IS SEVENTY YEARS OLD AND HIS HEART SUFFERS FROM THE HEAT...

ON JUNE 10, 1190, HE DROWNS IN THE SALEPH RIVER'S FREEZING WATERS.

IN THE 15TH CENTURY, THE IMPERIAL CASTLE OF HAUT-KOENIGSBURG HAS BECOME A HIDEOUT FOR BANDIT KNIGHTS THAT REGULARLY STEAL FROM CONVOYS TRAVELING THROUGH THE PLAINS BELOW...



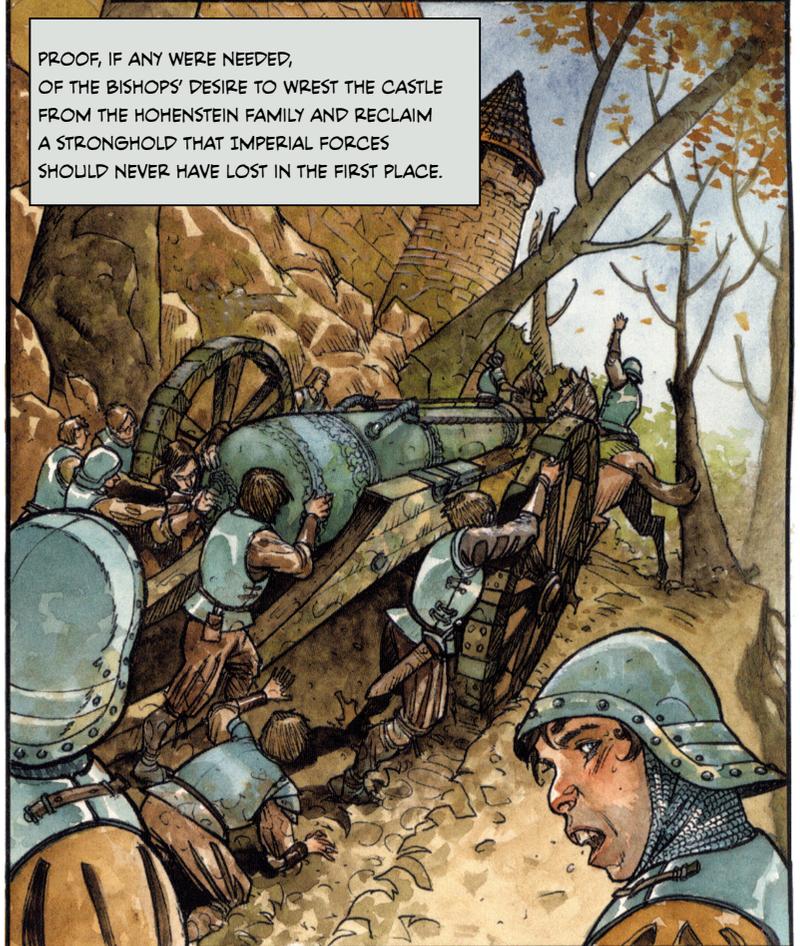
WEARY OF THIS EXTORTION, THE PRINCE-BISHOPS OF STRASBOURG AND BASEL SEND A LARGE ARMY TO LAY SIEGE TO THE FORTRESS IN OCTOBER 1462.



FOR GOOD MEASURE, THE CITY OF BASEL EVEN SENT ITS "DRAGON," THE LARGEST PIECE OF ARTILLERY AVAILABLE IN ALL OF THE RHINE VALLEY...



PROOF, IF ANY WERE NEEDED, OF THE BISHOPS' DESIRE TO WREST THE CASTLE FROM THE HOHENSTEIN FAMILY AND RECLAIM A STRONGHOLD THAT IMPERIAL FORCES SHOULD NEVER HAVE LOST IN THE FIRST PLACE.





APRIL 1909 IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON... DR. WATSON IS ON HIS WAY TO VICTORIA STATION TO GREET AN OLD FRIEND...



A FEW DAYS AGO, SHERLOCK HOLMES SENT WATSON A NOTE INFORMING HIM OF HIS TRIP TO LONDON AND WATSON IS THRILLED TO SEE HIM AGAIN.



EVER SINCE THE FAMOUS DETECTIVE RETIRED TO SUSSEX TO DEVOTE HIS TIME TO BEEKEEPING, THEY HARDLY SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE.

HELLO WATSON!

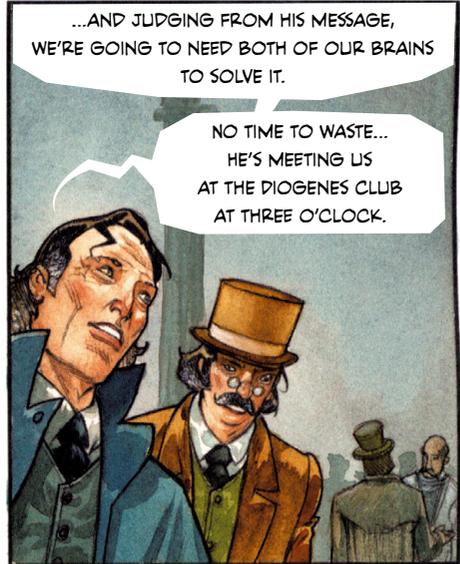


THANK YOU FOR COMING! I WOULD'VE FELT TERRIBLY GUILTY ABOUT GOING BACK TO WORK WITHOUT YOU...



YOU'RE TOO KIND, HOLMES! AND I MUST ADMIT THAT YOU'VE PIQUED MY CURIOSITY...

MY BROTHER MYCROFT WANTS TO SEE ME FOR A SENSITIVE DIPLOMATIC CASE...



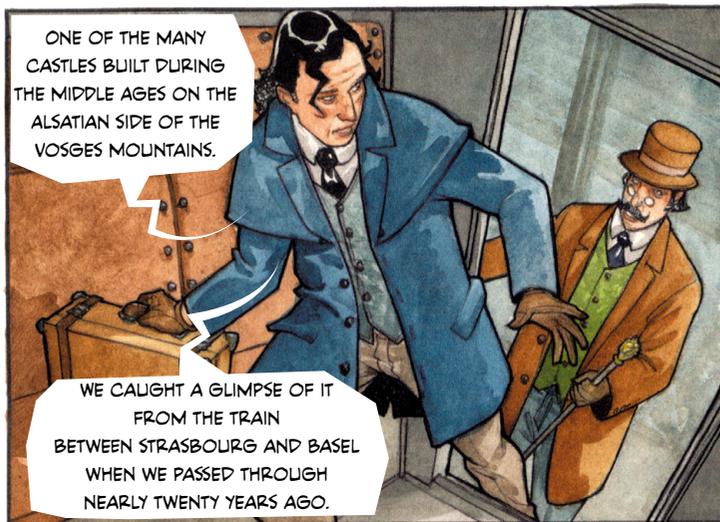
...AND JUDGING FROM HIS MESSAGE, WE'RE GOING TO NEED BOTH OF OUR BRAINS TO SOLVE IT.

NO TIME TO WASTE... HE'S MEETING US AT THE DIOGENES CLUB AT THREE O'CLOCK.



HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF HALT-KOENIGSBOURG?

I DON'T BELIEVE I HAVE... WHAT IS IT? AN ABBEY?



ONE OF THE MANY CASTLES BUILT DURING THE MIDDLE AGES ON THE ALSATIAN SIDE OF THE VOSGES MOUNTAINS.

WE CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF IT FROM THE TRAIN BETWEEN STRASBOURG AND BASEL WHEN WE PASSED THROUGH NEARLY TWENTY YEARS AGO.



IT WAS IN RUINS AT THE TIME. TODAY, THE CASTLE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY REBUILT.

REBUILT?!



BY KAISER WILHELM II, WHO HAS BEEN THE OWNER EVER SINCE THE CITY OF SELESTAT GAVE IT TO HIM IN 1899.

THE INAUGURATION TOOK PLACE LAST YEAR.



HALT-KOENIGSBOURG IS THE TARGET OF OUR NEXT INVESTIGATION - SEVERAL EUROPEAN AUTHORITIES ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CASTLE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, HOLMES. SHOULDN'T THE FACT THAT THE EMPEROR BOUGHT HIMSELF A CASTLE FOR HIS LATEST PLAYTHING BE REASSURING?

AFTER ALL, THAT WOULD CONFIRM THE GERMAN KAISER'S CHILDISH NATURE...



THE AUTHORITIES ARE CONVINCED THAT THE RESTORATION OF HALT-KOENIGSBOURG IS JUST A COVER... OUR FRENCH FRIENDS ARE EVEN TALKING ABOUT A SECRET WEAPON.

A SECRET WEAPON? IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING FROM OUT OF A NOVEL. HOW COULD YOU HIDE A LABORATORY OR A FACTORY IN A CASTLE?



IT SOUNDS JUST AS UNLIKELY TO ME... BUT IF WE'VE LEARNED ONE THING OVER THE YEARS, IT'S THAT THE UNLIKELY SOMETIMES TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE.

MYCROFT WILL BE ABLE TO TELL US MORE...

THE DIOGENES CLUB IS ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL PLACES IN LONDON. ETIQUETTE DEMANDS THAT ITS MEMBERS FEIGN LITTEr INDIFFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO THEIR FELLOW MEMBERS AND OBSERVE ABSOLUTE SILENCE.



THE STRANGER'S ROOM IS THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE.



SHERLOCK, SO LOVELY TO SEE YOU!
YOU'RE LOOKING QUITE WELL!

THANK YOU, MYCROFT!
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE TAKING
BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF...



A LITTLE
DIETING
NEVER HURT
YOU.

HOW DO
YOU KNOW?

OH, SHERLOCK, REALLY!
YOU NOTICED THE LACK
OF CAKE CRUMBS
ON MY WAISTCOAT!



BUT ENOUGH CHITCHAT! SEEING AS YOU'VE
ALREADY TOLD THE DOCTOR ABOUT HALT-
KOENIGSBOURG, I'LL GET STRAIGHT
TO THE POINT.

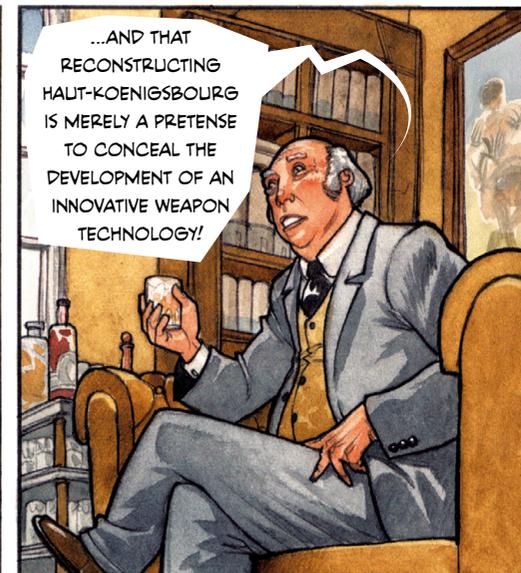


THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT
HAS REQUESTED OUR HELP!
OUR ALLIES ARE CONCERNED.

ONE OF THEIR AGENTS IN ALSACE
BELIEVES THAT WILHELM II'S
IMMENSE WORK SITE AT THE CASTLE
IS MILITARY IN NATURE...



...AND THAT
RECONSTRUCTING
HALT-KOENIGSBOURG
IS MERELY A PRETENSE
TO CONCEAL THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AN
INNOVATIVE WEAPON
TECHNOLOGY!



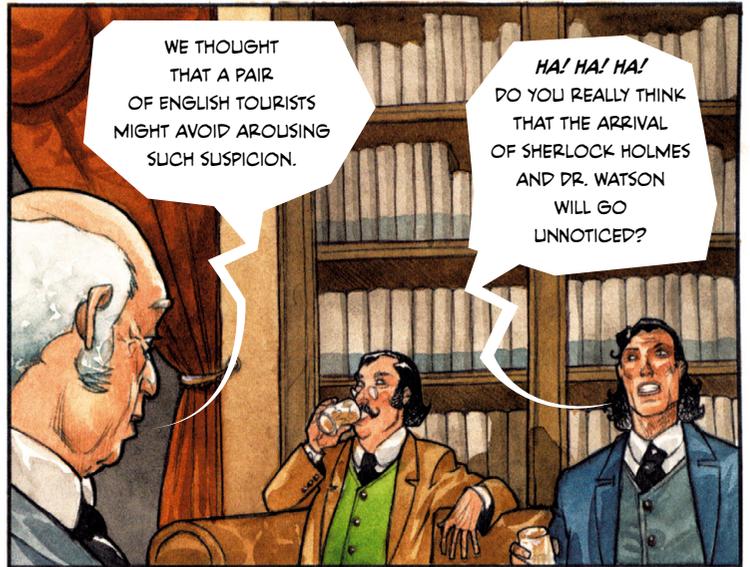
IS THE AGENT IN QUESTION
STILL ALIVE?





YES, BUT FOR HIS OWN SAFETY, HE HAS BEEN ASKED TO STEP DOWN.

THEREIN LIES THE RUB, SHERLOCK... SENDING FRENCH AGENTS TO ALSACE IS VERY RISKY. THEY ARE IMMEDIATELY SPOTTED AND SHADOWED.



WE THOUGHT THAT A PAIR OF ENGLISH TOURISTS MIGHT AVOID AROUSING SUCH SUSPICION.

HA! HA! HA! DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT THE ARRIVAL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON WILL GO UNNOTICED?



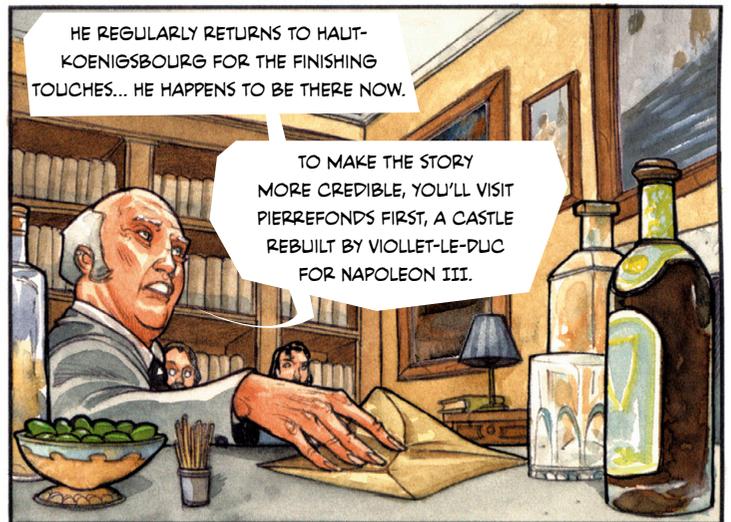
WE'VE COME UP WITH A PLAN. IT'S PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU'VE RETIRED... A RETIREE WHO IS NOW PASSIONATE ABOUT THE RECONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE'S MEDIEVAL CASTLES.

YOU'RE CURRENTLY WORKING ON A MONOGRAPH ON THE SUBJECT AND YOU'D LIKE TO VISIT HAUT-KOENIGSBURG, WHICH HAS BEEN SUPERBLY REBUILT BY BODO EBHARDT.



WHO IS BODO EBHARDT?

THE EMPEROR'S ARCHITECT IN CHARGE OF THE RESTORATION WORK... A RENOWNED SPECIALIST IN GERMAN AND ITALIAN CASTLES.



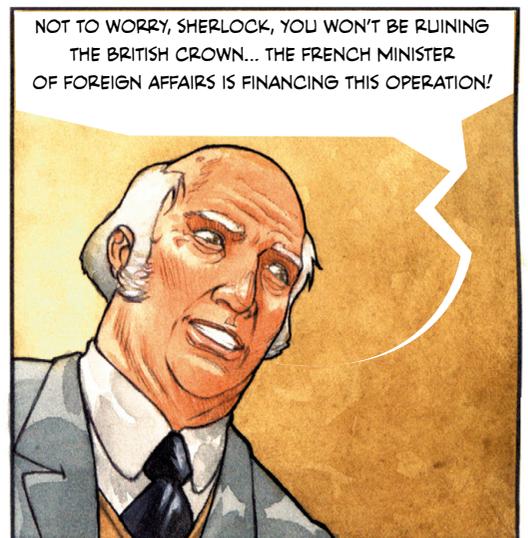
HE REGULARLY RETURNS TO HAUT-KOENIGSBURG FOR THE FINISHING TOUCHES... HE HAPPENS TO BE THERE NOW.

TO MAKE THE STORY MORE CREDIBLE, YOU'LL VISIT PIERREFONDS FIRST, A CASTLE REBUILT BY VIOLETT-LE-DUC FOR NAPOLEON III.

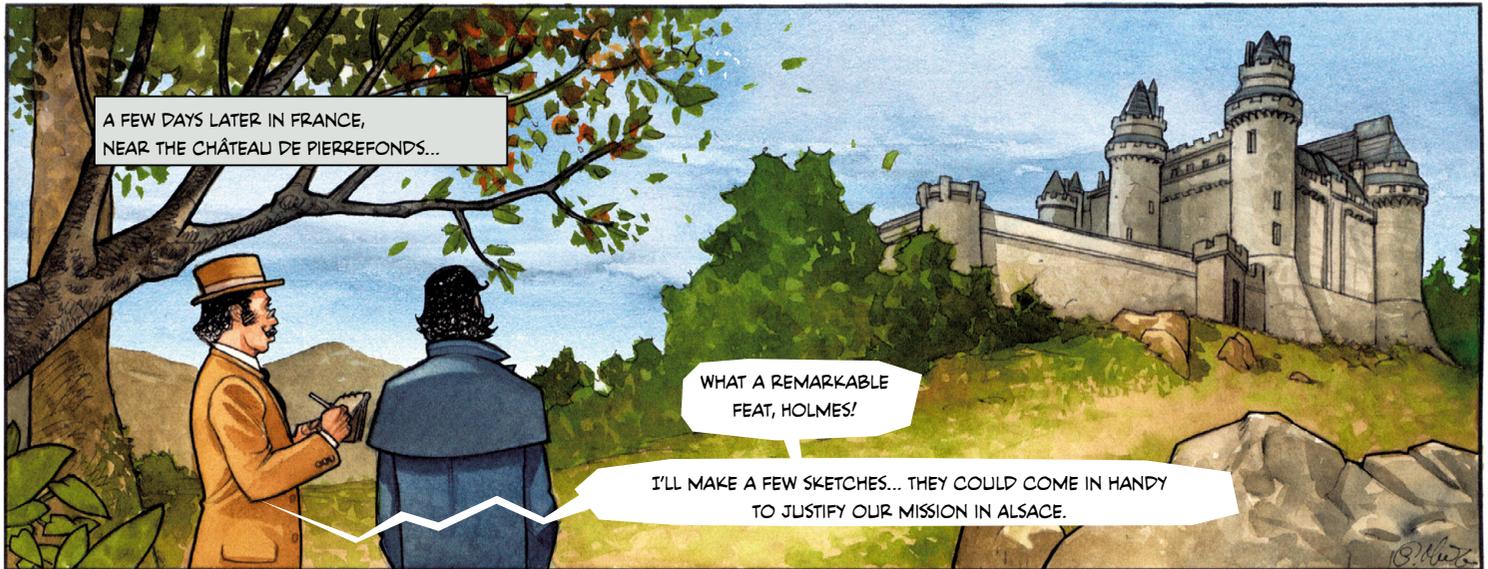


HERE'S A MEMORANDUM SUMMARIZING EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT THE CASE... IT ALSO PROVIDES THE FRENCH AGENT'S ADDRESS AND A LARGE SUM OF MONEY.

THE MONEY WON'T BE NECESSARY.



NOT TO WORRY, SHERLOCK, YOU WON'T BE RUINING THE BRITISH CROWN... THE FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS FINANCING THIS OPERATION!



A FEW DAYS LATER IN FRANCE,
NEAR THE CHÂTEAU DE PIERREFONDS...

WHAT A REMARKABLE
FEAT, HOLMES!

I'LL MAKE A FEW SKETCHES... THEY COULD COME IN HANDY
TO JUSTIFY OUR MISSION IN ALSACE.



DON'T LOOK NOW,
WATSON, BUT WE'RE
BEING FOLLOWED.

I'VE JUST SPOTTED
TWO SILHOUETTES BEHIND
THAT GROVE OF TREES
ON OUR LEFT...

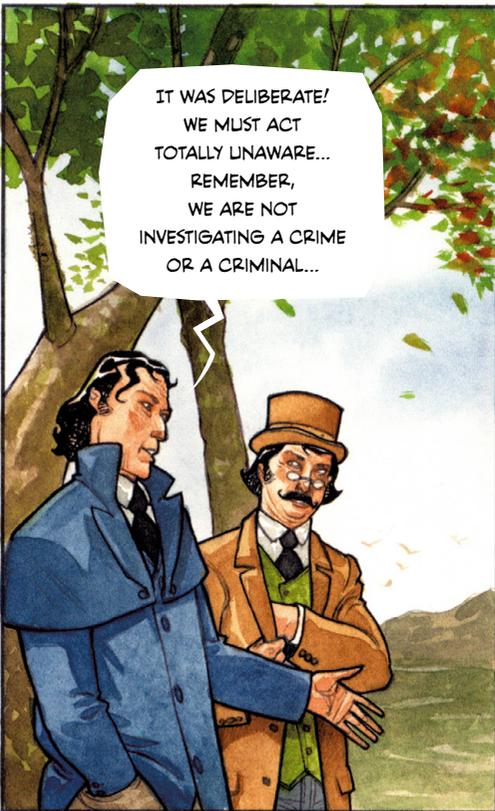


ARE YOU SURE?

ABSOLUTELY! IN FACT,
THEY'VE BEEN SPYING
ON US FOR SEVERAL DAYS
NOW...



AND YOU DIDN'T THINK TO TELL ME?



IT WAS DELIBERATE!
WE MUST ACT
TOTALLY UNAWARE...
REMEMBER,
WE ARE NOT
INVESTIGATING A CRIME
OR A CRIMINAL...



...WE ARE MERELY
RESEARCHING
RECENTLY REBUILT
MEDIEVAL CASTLES...
WE THEREFORE HAVE
NO REASON
TO THINK
WE MAY BE FOLLOWED.

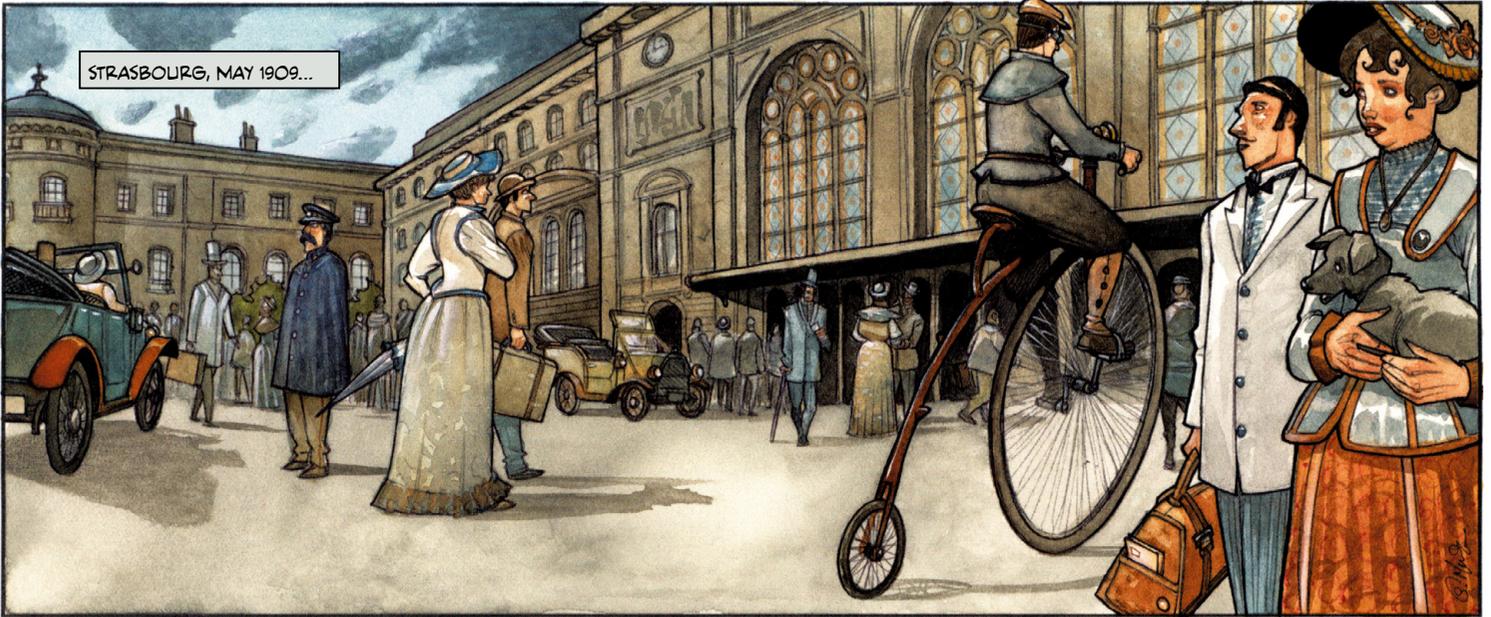
COULD IT BE
A ROUTINE PROCEDURE?



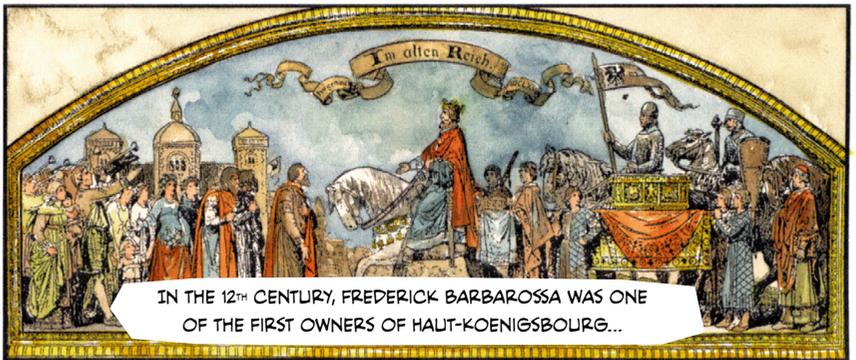
IT COULD... TWO BRITISH SUBJECTS ON THE MAINLAND...
IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES, THAT MAY BE ENOUGH
TO AROUSE SUSPICION...

THE BEST COURSE
OF ACTION
IS TO CONTINUE
PLAYING ALONG...

STRASBOURG, MAY 1909...



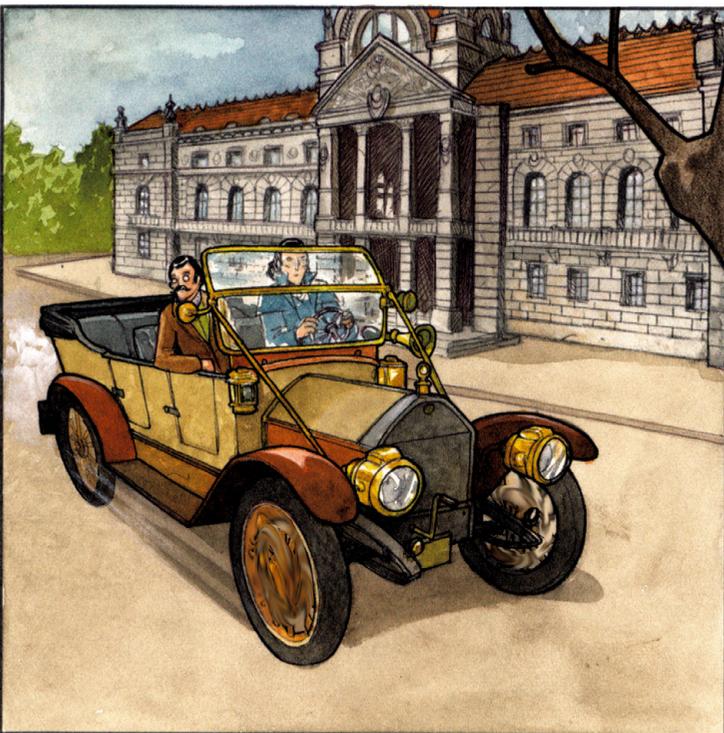
LOOK, WATSON!
WE'RE ALREADY AT THE HEART
OF OUR SUBJECT.



IN THE 12TH CENTURY, FREDERICK BARBAROSSA WAS ONE
OF THE FIRST OWNERS OF HALT-KOENIGSBOURG...



AND THAT'S WILHELM I
WHO CAME TO STRASBOURG
AFTER THE LAST WAR...
HE'S THE CURRENT EMPEROR'S
GRANDFATHER...

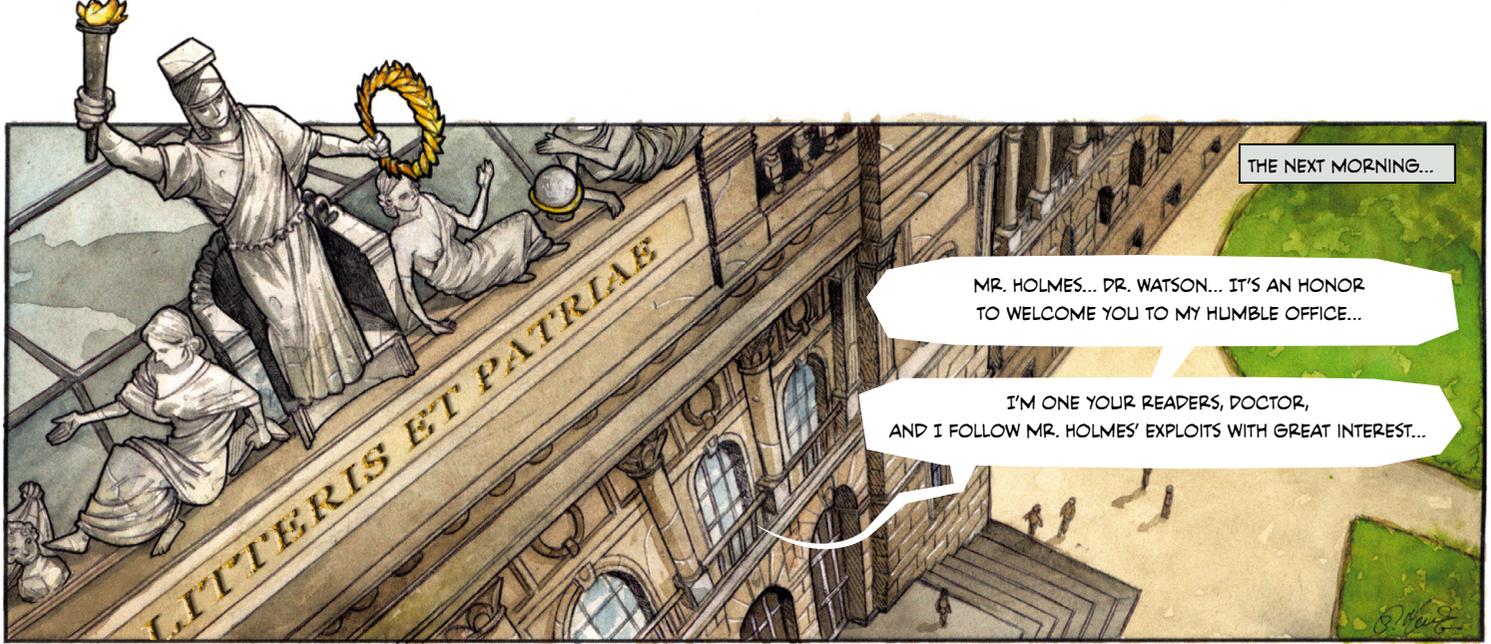


THE ENGLISCHER HOF!
HERE WE ARE, WATSON!

FIRST THING TOMORROW,
WE'LL GO TO THE UNIVERSITY
TO MEET PROFESSOR
MULLER...

ACCORDING TO THE
ROYAL HISTORICAL
AND ARCHEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY, HE'S A GREAT
SPECIALIST
ON THE CASTLE.
TALKING TO HIM
SHOULD PROVE
HIGHLY INTERESTING...





THE NEXT MORNING...

MR. HOLMES... DR. WATSON... IT'S AN HONOR TO WELCOME YOU TO MY HUMBLE OFFICE...

I'M ONE YOUR READERS, DOCTOR, AND I FOLLOW MR. HOLMES' EXPLOITS WITH GREAT INTEREST...



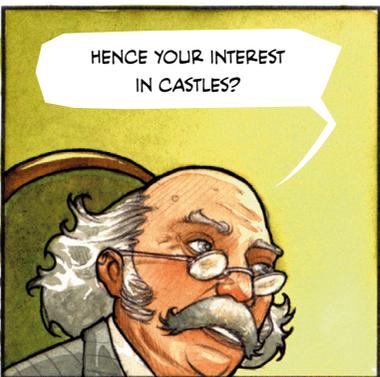
BUT I MUST ADMIT THAT I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU'VE LEFT BEHIND BAKER STREET AND LONDON'S CRIME SCENE TO RESEARCH MEDIEVAL FORTIFIED CASTLES.

TO BE HONEST, WE NO LONGER LIVE AT BAKER STREET, PROFESSOR... DR. WATSON HAS REMARRIED AND I'M NOW RETIRED...



RETIRED? BUT YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG!

I'VE EXHAUSTED ALL LEADS IN THE CRIME DEPARTMENT AND I'M LOOKING FOR NEW, UNKNOWN TERRITORIES TO EXPLORE...



HENCE YOUR INTEREST IN CASTLES?



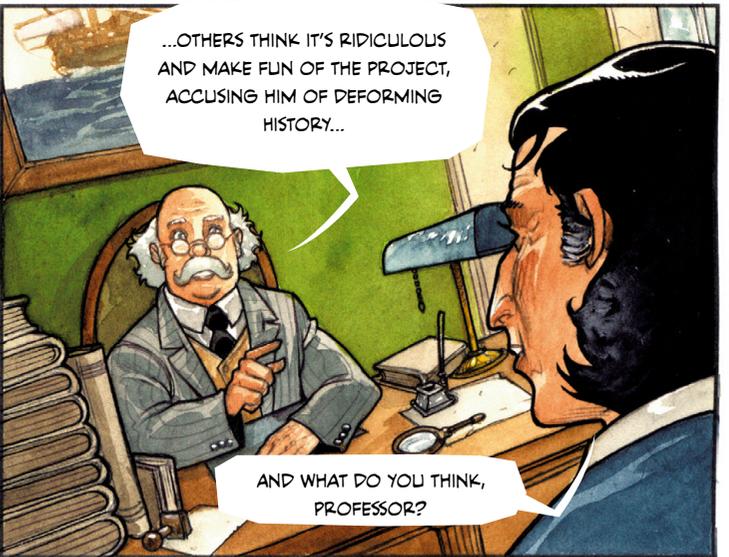
PRECISELY, PROFESSOR! AND ESPECIALLY IN THIS CURRENT TREND OF REBUILDING THEM EXACTLY AS THEY WERE BEFORE...

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT! THE ARCHITECTS OFTEN TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REINVENT THE IDEALIZED MIDDLE AGES OF THEIR CHILDHOOD INSTEAD OF BEING HISTORICALLY ACCURATE...



SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HALT-KOENIGSBURG?

AS YOU KNOW, GENTLEMEN, THAT IS A VERY CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT HERE. SOME THINK THAT BODO EBHARDT WAS RIGHT AND THAT HE HAS DONE GOOD WORK...



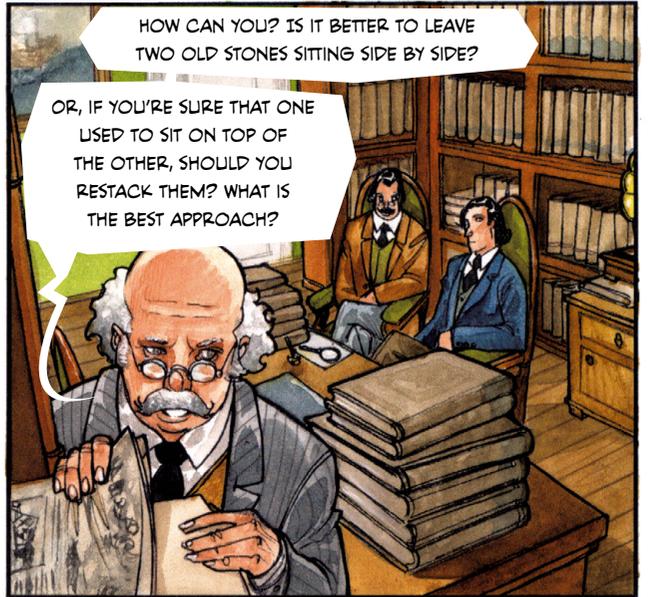
...OTHERS THINK IT'S RIDICULOUS AND MAKE FUN OF THE PROJECT, ACCUSING HIM OF DEFORMING HISTORY...

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK, PROFESSOR?



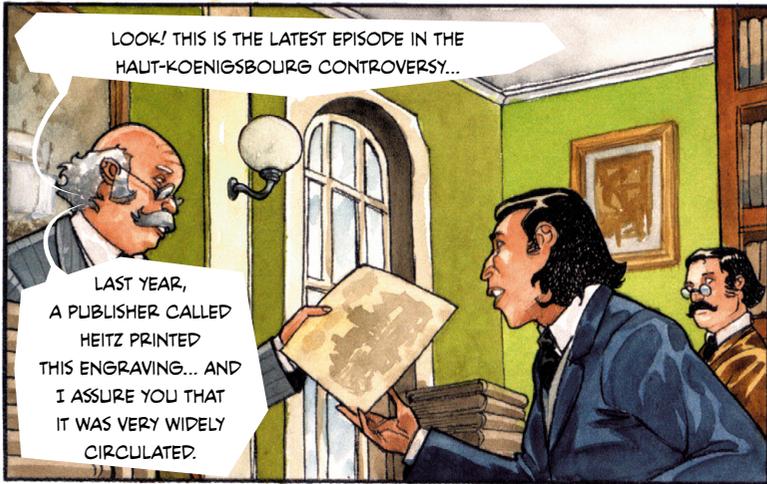
OH, I'M RATHER PRAGMATIC AND THEREFORE NEUTRAL, GENTLEMEN.

SO YOU REFUSE TO TAKE SIDES?



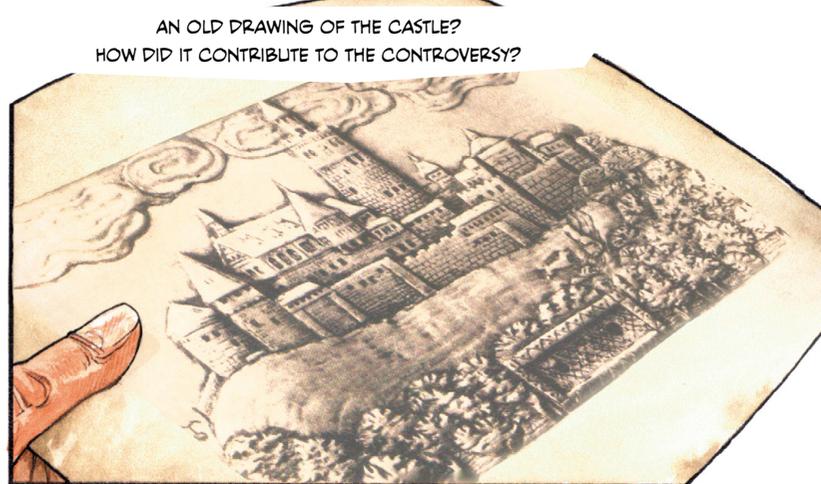
HOW CAN YOU? IS IT BETTER TO LEAVE TWO OLD STONES SITTING SIDE BY SIDE?

OR, IF YOU'RE SURE THAT ONE USED TO SIT ON TOP OF THE OTHER, SHOULD YOU RESTACK THEM? WHAT IS THE BEST APPROACH?

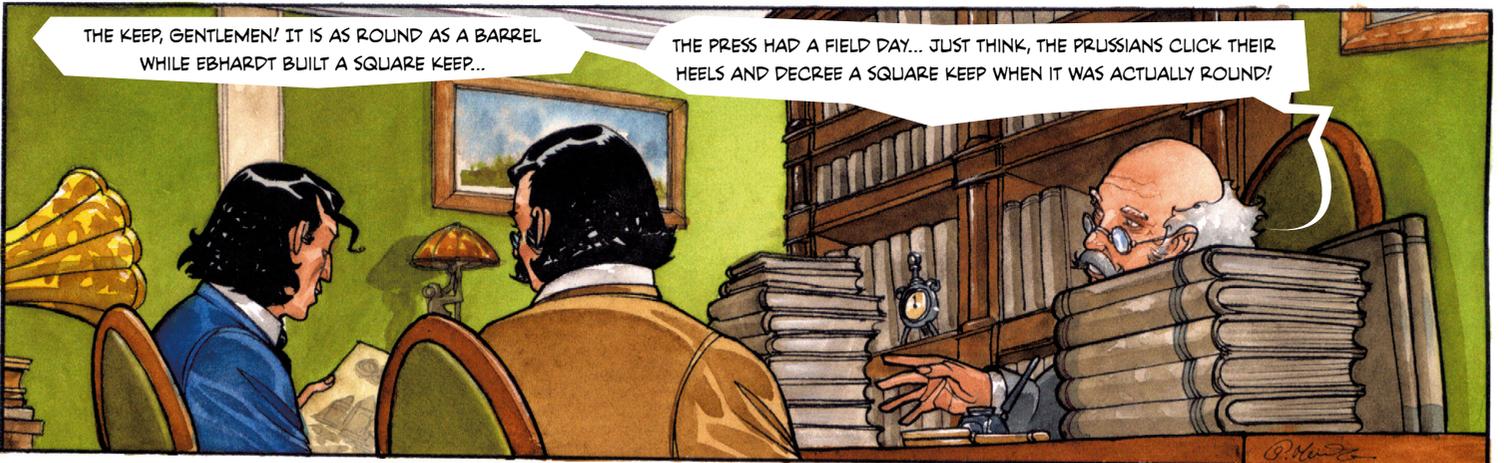


LOOK! THIS IS THE LATEST EPISODE IN THE HAUT-KOENIGSBOURG CONTROVERSY...

LAST YEAR, A PUBLISHER CALLED HEITZ PRINTED THIS ENGRAVING... AND I ASSURE YOU THAT IT WAS VERY WIDELY CIRCULATED.



AN OLD DRAWING OF THE CASTLE? HOW DID IT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONTROVERSY?



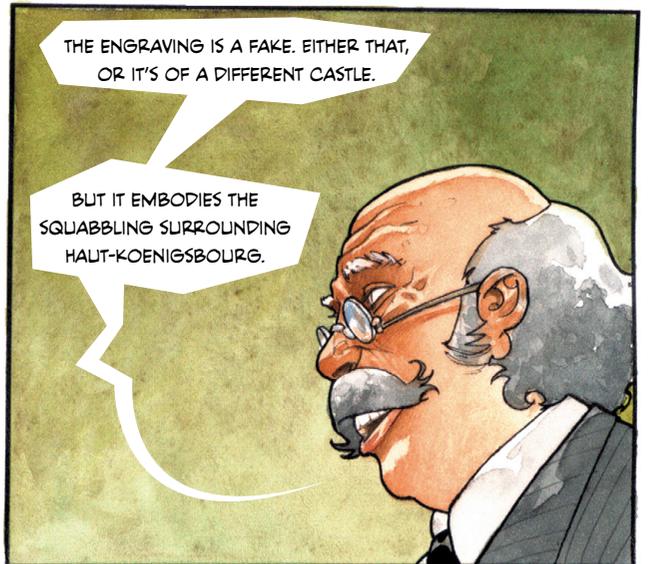
THE KEEP, GENTLEMEN! IT IS AS ROUND AS A BARREL WHILE EBHARDT BUILT A SQUARE KEEP...

THE PRESS HAD A FIELD DAY... JUST THINK, THE PRUSSIANS CLICK THEIR HEELS AND DECREE A SQUARE KEEP WHEN IT WAS ACTUALLY ROUND!



WAS THAT THE CASE?

TO BE HONEST, I THINK THAT EBHARDT WAS RIGHT AND THE KEEP WAS SQUARE.



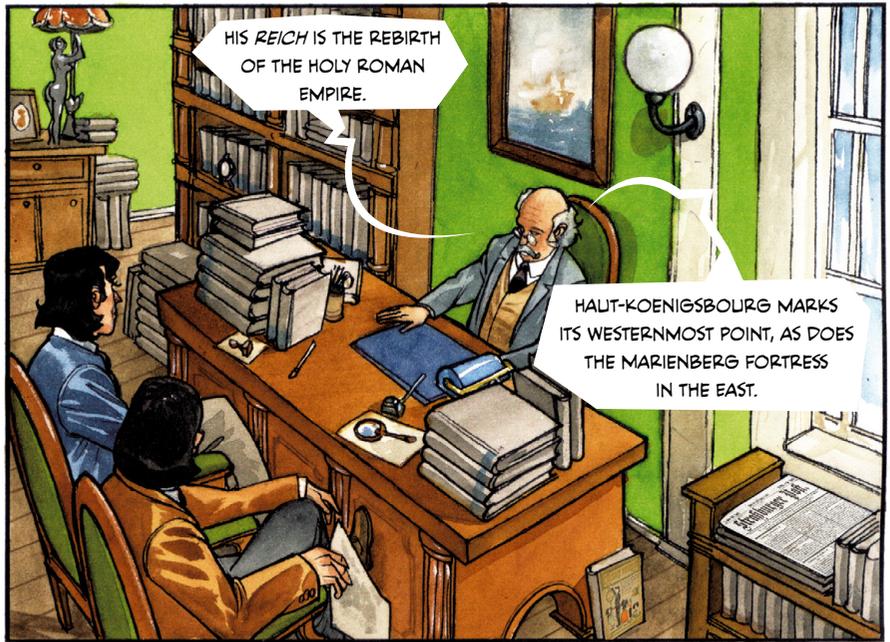
THE ENGRAVING IS A FAKE. EITHER THAT, OR IT'S OF A DIFFERENT CASTLE.

BUT IT EMBODIES THE SQUABBLING SURROUNDING HAUT-KOENIGSBOURG.



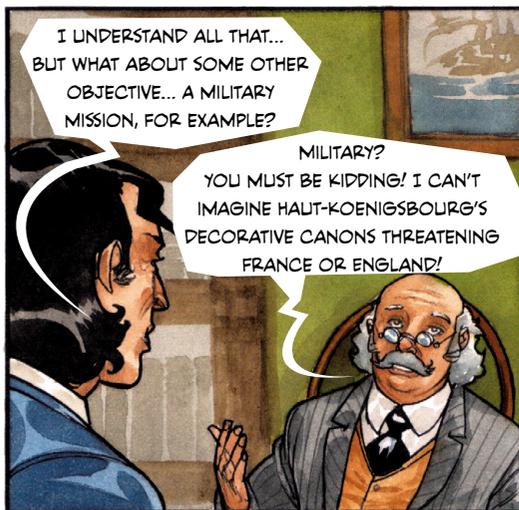
YOU KNOW THAT STRUCTURE WELL. DO YOU GET THE FEELING THAT ITS RECONSTRUCTION MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN RESURRECTING AN OLD CASTLE?

OF COURSE! FOR THE EMPEROR, IT'S A WAY TO SHOW THAT HE IS THE SUCCESSOR OF THE HOHENSTAUFENS AND THE HABSBOURGS.



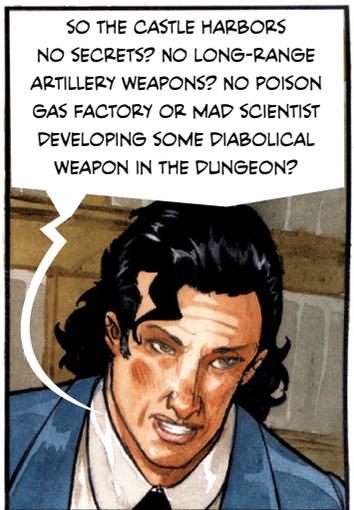
HIS REICH IS THE REBIRTH OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

HAUT-KOENIGSBOURG MARKS ITS WESTERNMOST POINT, AS DOES THE MARIENBERG FORTRESS IN THE EAST.



I UNDERSTAND ALL THAT... BUT WHAT ABOUT SOME OTHER OBJECTIVE... A MILITARY MISSION, FOR EXAMPLE?

MILITARY? YOU MUST BE KIDDING! I CAN'T IMAGINE HAUT-KOENIGSBOURG'S DECORATIVE CANONS THREATENING FRANCE OR ENGLAND!



SO THE CASTLE HARBORS NO SECRETS? NO LONG-RANGE ARTILLERY WEAPONS? NO POISON GAS FACTORY OR MAD SCIENTIST DEVELOPING SOME DIABOLICAL WEAPON IN THE DUNGEON?

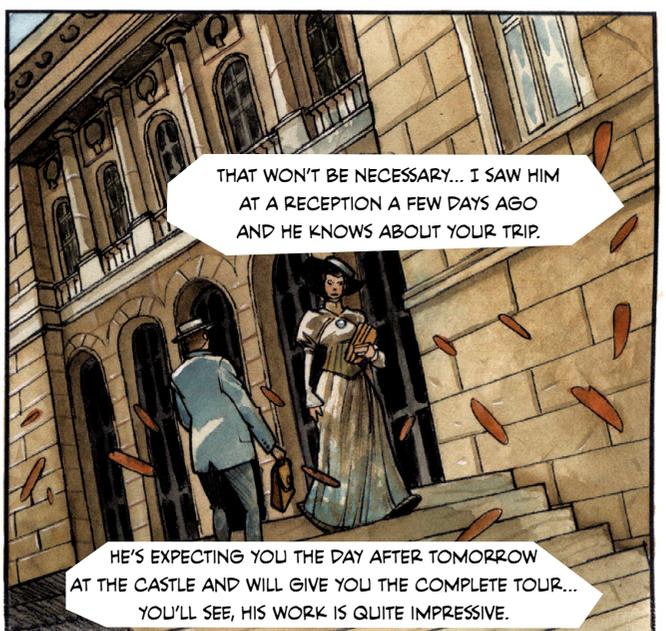


NOTHING LIKE THAT, MR. HOMES... JUST A BIG CASTLE FULL OF OLD ANTIQUES THAT'S HARD TO HEAT.



THANK YOU, PROFESSOR... I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU KNOW BODO EBHARDT QUITE WELL AND I KNOW THAT HE HOLDS YOU IN HIGH REGARD...

WOULD A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION BE TOO MUCH TO ASK?



THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY... I SAW HIM AT A RECEPTION A FEW DAYS AGO AND HE KNOWS ABOUT YOUR TRIP.

HE'S EXPECTING YOU THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW AT THE CASTLE AND WILL GIVE YOU THE COMPLETE TOUR... YOU'LL SEE, HIS WORK IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE.



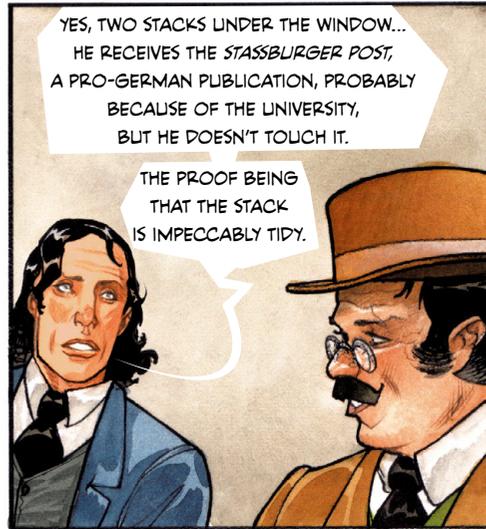
YOU DIDN'T EXACTLY BEAT ABOUT THE BUSH IN THERE... WAS IT WISE TO ASK ABOUT MILITARY SECRETS?

WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM PROFESSOR MULLER... HE'S A PRO-FRENCH ALSATIAN, EVEN IF HE DOESN'T SHOW IT.



DIDN'T YOU NOTICE THE BOOKS BY HANSI ON HIS SHELVES? NOT TO MENTION THE NEWSPAPERS.

THE NEWSPAPERS?



YES, TWO STACKS UNDER THE WINDOW... HE RECEIVES THE STASSBURGER POST, A PRO-GERMAN PUBLICATION, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE UNIVERSITY, BUT HE DOESN'T TOUCH IT.

THE PROOF BEING THAT THE STACK IS IMPECCABLY TIDY.



ON THE OTHER HAND, HE READS THE ILLUSTRATED ALSATIAN REVIEW, KNOWN FOR ITS FRENCH SYMPATHIES... AND DESPITE HIS BEST EFFORTS, THAT STACK IS DISTINCTLY MESSIER.



PROFESSOR MULLER WON'T BETRAY US... IF HE SUSPECTS ANYTHING ABOUT THE TRUE NATURE OF OUR TRIP, HE'LL KEEP IT TO HIMSELF.

AND HE'LL REVEL IN IT.



LOOK, WATSON, THERE'S GOETHE.



HE SPENT A FEW YEARS IN STRASBOURG DURING HIS STUDIES.



LET'S FIND A BITE TO EAT... ALL THIS TALK OF HISTORY IS MAKING ME HUNGRY!

THE NEXT MORNING, HOLMES AND WATSON HEAD TO SELESTAT. MYCROFT HAS ARRANGED A MEETING WITH THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICE AGENT WHO RUNS A STORE IN TOWN.



LOOK, WATSON, THERE'S HAUT-KOENIGSBOURG!

RATHER A GOOD LOCATION, ISN'T IT?



IT OVERLOOKS THE ENTIRE LANDSCAPE, EVEN IF THAT DOESN'T HAVE MUCH STRATEGIC VALUE ANYMORE IN OUR ERA OF MODERN ARTILLERY.



ACCORDING TO PROFESSOR MULLER, IT'S NOW JUST A DESTINATION AND NO LONGER A MILITARY VANTAGE POINT.

IN ANY CASE, IF WE'RE STILL BEING WATCHED, THEY'RE NOT IN THIS TRAIN... MAYBE ANOTHER TEAM IS IN PLACE AWAITING OUR ARRIVAL?



DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY FIND OUR INTEREST IN HAUT-KOENIGSBURG SUSPICIOUS?



MOST LIKELY! AND IF THEY HAVE CONTACTS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, OUR INVESTIGATION MAY BECOME EVEN MORE COMPLICATED...

IT COULD EVEN BECOME DANGEROUS...



I HOPE THAT YOU BROUGHT ALONG YOUR OLD SERVICE REVOLVER? I'D HATE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TEARING YOU AWAY FROM YOUR HOME AND YOUR PATIENTS ONLY TO PUT YOU AT RISK!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE ABLE TO DEFEND MYSELF.



GOOD! LET'S GO FIND OUR HAT MAKER... I'M SURE THAT HE'LL HAVE LOTS OF INTERESTING INFORMATION FOR US...



THERE'S OUR MAN'S STORE!



HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED WEARING A CAP LIKE THAT?

I DON'T RECALL EVER WEARING ONE...



IT LOOKS TOO MUCH LIKE A HUNTING HAT FOR A MAN OF MY BEARING.



MEINE HERREN?

MR. NONNENMACHER?



THAT'S ME! HOW MAY I BE OF SERVICE?

I'M SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THIS IS DR. WATSON...

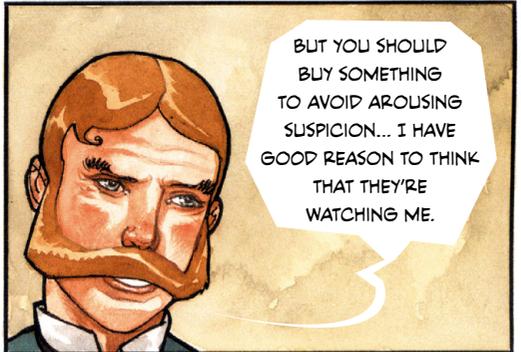


THEY... THEY MUSTN'T SEE YOU IN THE STORE... I'D BE HAPPY TO TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW, BUT NOT HERE...

FINE! TELL US WHEN AND WHERE.



THIS AFTERNOON AT THE HUMANIST LIBRARY! THE DIRECTOR IS A FRIEND... WE'LL BE ABLE TO TALK FREELY THERE.



BUT YOU SHOULD BUY SOMETHING TO AVOID AROUSING SUSPICION... I HAVE GOOD REASON TO THINK THAT THEY'RE WATCHING ME.